

Research on Regional Characteristics and Cultural Value in the Inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage Music

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Abstract: The inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) music is a significant aspect of cultural preservation, closely tied to regional characteristics and cultural values. This paper aims to explore the importance of ICH music as cultural heritage and how regional characteristics influence its inheritance. Regional characteristics encompass factors such as geographical environment, historical traditions, social structures, and cultural identities, all of which shape various aspects of music performance, repertoire selection, and instrument production. Music serves as a vital medium for conveying cultural values, imparting historical significance, moral messages, social structures, and cultural identities through lyrics, songs, and performance techniques. Additionally, the preservation of ICH music promotes social cohesion, safeguards cultural diversity, communicates essential cultural information, and underscores the significance of cultural identity. The transmission of ICH music represents a crucial cultural endeavor that contributes to the preservation of cultural diversity, the promotion of cultural values, and the fostering of social cohesion.

Keywords: Music Inheritance; Intangible Cultural Heritage; Cultural Value; Regional Characteristics.

1. Introduction

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) is a valuable resource that reflects the diversity and creativity of human civilization, including its colorful traditional music. This traditional music serves not only as a means of entertainment and enjoyment but also as a cultural link between the past, present, and future [2]. However, under the tide of globalization and modernization, many ICH are in danger of being lost. Therefore, the inheritance of ICH music has become an urgent task in today's society.

Regional characteristics play a crucial role in the inheritance of ICH music. Each region has its unique cultural traditions and musical styles that reflect local history, geography, social structure, and values. Regional characteristics are not only reflected in music but also passed down to future generations through music, becoming a symbol of the cultural identity of a particular region [3]. Studying the relationship between regional characteristics and the heritage of ICH music will help us better understand cultural diversity and promote the heritage, protection, and development of ICH music [8].

The purpose of this paper is to explore the regional characteristics and cultural value of ICH music inheritance and to emphasize the importance of this field. Through an in-depth study of the practice of ICH music inheritance in specific areas, we can gain a deeper understanding of the influence of regional characteristics on music inheritance and how to convey cultural values through music. By examining case studies in different regions, we will discuss how regional characteristics are embodied in the inheritance of ICH music and how these characteristics can be preserved and passed on. Through this study, we aim to provide a solid theoretical basis and practical guidance for ICH music heritage, promoting the respect and protection of cultural diversity and the sustainable development of music heritage.

2. The Importance of ICH Music Inheritance

The importance of ICH music inheritance cannot be underestimated, as it encompasses various aspects such as culture, history, society, psychology, and art, and has a profound impact on preserving cultural diversity, transmitting cultural values, promoting social cohesion, and fostering innovation in the field of music [10].

(1) Preserving Cultural Diversity

ICH music represents the unique musical traditions and styles of different regions, reflecting local culture, history, values, and social structure. These musical traditions contribute to cultural diversity, enrich the global cultural heritage, and enable us to better understand and respect the differences between various cultures, thereby safeguarding cultural diversity.

(2) Promoting Social Cohesion

ICH music plays a unifying role in society. Music is a powerful social medium that can bring people together, create resonance, and evoke emotions. By participating in the inheritance and performance of ICH music, communities and cultural groups can forge stronger bonds, promote social cohesion, and foster harmony within society.

(3) Fostering Innovation in the Field of Music

ICH music heritage not only preserves traditions but also provides a rich source of materials and inspiration for innovation in modern music [4]. By studying traditional music, musicians and creators can integrate modern elements, create new musical works, and contribute to the development of the musical field.

(4) Protecting Cultural Heritage

The preservation of ICH music helps protect cultural heritage and prevent its gradual disappearance due to the influence of time and modernization [5]. Preserving ICH music ensures the continuation of traditions in instrument making skills, titles, lyrics, and performance skills.

(5) Promoting Education and Cultural Exchange

ICH music heritage provides valuable educational resources. Studying traditional music allows students to gain a better understanding of culture, history, and develop their musical skills. Furthermore, ICH music promotes cultural exchange, enabling the sharing and exchange of musical traditions between different regions [1].

In conclusion, the preservation of ICH music is an important cultural task that contributes to the preservation of cultural diversity, the transmission of cultural values, the promotion of social cohesion, the encouragement of innovation in the field of music, the protection of cultural heritage, education, and cultural exchanges. This heritage not only enriches cultural life but also contributes to building a more pluralistic and harmonious society.

3. Regional Characteristics and the Inheritance of ICH Music

3.1. The Embodiment of Regional Characteristics in ICH Music

(1) Geographical Environment and Musical style

The geographical environment of different regions profoundly influences musical styles [6]. For instance, music in mountainous areas may reflect the tranquility and grandeur of the mountain environment, while music in coastal areas may embody the rhythmic qualities of the sea. Climate, topography, and available resources in the geographical environment can all impact the rhythm, tone, and instrument choices in music.

(2) History and Tradition

Regional characteristics are also reflected in the history and tradition of music. Musical heritage is passed down from one generation to another, and the musical traditions of different regions maintain their distinct regional uniqueness during their development. Historical events, religions, national customs, and other factors have influenced the formation and evolution of music.

(3) National and Cultural Identity

Music is an integral part of cultural identity, and regional characteristics reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity within music. Musical styles and compositions from different regions often become symbols of a particular nation or culture. Music can convey national and cultural values and reinforce cultural identity.

(4) Language and Lyrics

Regional characteristics are also evident in the lyrics of music. Music from different regions often incorporates local dialects or languages in its lyrics, which can reflect local folk customs, stories, and cultural characteristics. Lyrics serve as a medium for cultural transmission and inheritance.

(5) Instrument Making and Playing Techniques

Regional characteristics can also be seen in the methods of making and playing musical instruments. Different regions may employ distinct production techniques for their musical instruments, which in turn affect the way the music is played. Additionally, there may be variations in playing methods and techniques across different regions, reflecting their unique regional characteristics.

(6) Music for Ceremonies and Celebrations

Much of the regional music is associated with specific ceremonies, celebrations, and festivals. This music plays a significant role in these events, reflecting religious, social, and cultural traditions with regional characteristics. Music has

become a means for people to celebrate and commemorate, while also conveying cultural values.

3.2. The Influence of Regional Characteristics on the Inheritance of ICH Music

Regional characteristics play a crucial role in the inheritance of ICH music, shaping various aspects such as music performance modes, track selection, and musical instrument production. These characteristics have a profound impact on the preservation and transmission of ICH music.

(1) Music Performance Modes

Performance skills and regional characteristics: Music in different regions is often accompanied by specific playing techniques that are passed down through generations, reflecting the unique cultural characteristics of the locality. For example, Peking opera music in China utilizes specific string and percussion instruments, and performers must master distinctive playing and performance skills, which are vital for the preservation of Peking opera music.

Performance styles and regional characteristics: Regional characteristics are also evident in the performance styles of music. Different regions may exhibit varying rhythms, note intensities, and performance methods [9]. For instance, blues music in the southern United States is renowned for its distinct guitar and harmonica playing style, embodying regional characteristics.

(2) Track Selection

Themes and regional characteristics: The selection of songs often reflects local themes and narratives. Music from different regions may draw inspiration from historical events, legends, and folk tales, thus conveying unique cultural characteristics. For example, Irish folk music frequently explores Irish history and traditions, with track selections highlighting regional characteristics.

Language and Regional Distinctiveness: Lyrics and language in songs also reflect regional characteristics. Local languages and dialects are often incorporated into musical lyrics, serving to preserve and perpetuate regional languages and cultures.

(3) Musical Instrument Making

Materials and styles of musical instruments: Musical instruments are typically crafted from local materials, giving them distinct sound qualities and appearances. For instance, African snare drums are made from animal skins, resulting in a unique sound that is closely tied to regional characteristics. Additionally, the production techniques of musical instruments are influenced by regional characteristics. The manufacturing process of the Chinese guqin, for example, is closely connected to traditional Chinese culture and craftsmanship.

Inheritance and regional characteristics of musical instruments: The preservation of musical instruments often relies on skilled craftsmen and traditional techniques that possess regional characteristics. These craftsmen possess unique expertise in instrument making and repair, safeguarding and passing down regional characteristics from one generation to the next.

4. Transmission of Cultural Values

Regional characteristics play a significant role in the transmission of cultural values, including morality, history, social structure, and more, through the inheritance of ICH music.

(1) Preserving Historical Value

Many songs and lyrics in ICH music heritage contain historical stories and events. These musical works serve as a means to convey historical events to future generations, fostering understanding and respect for past cultures and experiences. For example, American folk music has conveyed important events in American history, such as the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.

The transmission of ICH music contributes to the continuation of cultural traditions and the preservation and transmission of historical cultural values. These values encompass an understanding of morality, family, society, and politics, all of which can be conveyed through music. For instance, Irish folk music reflects the indomitable spirit and history of struggle of the Irish people, emphasizing the importance of upholding values.

(2) Conveying Moral Values

Music lyrics and songs often contain moral stories and insights that help individuals form correct moral concepts. Through music, people can learn about values such as good and evil, justice, kindness, and mutual assistance [7]. For example, Chinese guzheng music often includes praise and reflection on moral qualities.

ICH music can also underscore the significance of society and interpersonal relationships, conveying information about interpersonal interactions and social harmony. As a social medium, music expresses the complexity and importance of social relations through songs and performances, serving as a powerful tool for social education.

(3) Preserving Social Structure and Identity Values

Lyrics and songs in ICH music often reflect the identities, roles, and status of different social groups. This helps individuals understand the social structure and division of labor, emphasizing the importance of different social groups. For instance, African tribal music reflects the culture, status, and social structure of various tribes.

Music can strengthen cultural identity and assist individuals in maintaining their own cultural identity. Through music, people can experience and express their own culture, traditions, and identity, highlighting the diversity and value of culture. For example, Indian classical music in India emphasizes the richness and diversity of Indian culture.

Through the inheritance of ICH music, regional characteristics serve as a medium for conveying cultural values, including historical, moral, and social values. This aids in the preservation of cultural wisdom, guides individuals in establishing correct values, maintains cultural diversity, and underscores the importance of society and culture, ultimately promoting social harmony and cultural identity. The preservation of ICH music has played a crucial role in transmitting these cultural values.

5. Conclusion

Regional characteristics not only give music its uniqueness but also have a profound impact on the way music is played, the selection of pieces, and the production of musical

instruments. These regional characteristics add a distinct charm to the heritage of folk music, making it a valuable part of cultural heritage. Music serves as a medium for conveying various cultural values, including those related to history, morality, social structure, and cultural identity. As a universal language, music can transcend language and cultural barriers, effectively conveying important cultural information and serving as a powerful tool for future generations to inherit. This area of research not only enriches our understanding of music, culture, and society but also provides valuable insights for the preservation of culture and the sustainable development of society. The preservation of ICH music heritage is an essential cultural task that contributes to the safeguarding of cultural diversity, the transmission of cultural values, and the promotion of social cohesion. It also provides guidance for the future preservation of music heritage and culture.

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